

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (previously presented): A method according to claim 11 wherein the step of calculating a BEMF may be described by the formula,

$$\text{BEMF} = \text{Vmtr} - \text{Imtr} * \text{Rmtr} \quad [\text{Equation 2}], \text{ wherein}$$

Vmtr represents actuator motor voltage,

Imtr represents actuator current, and

Rmtr represents actuator motor resistance.

Claim 10 (previously presented): A method according to claim 11 wherein the step of calculating a velocity error, E_v , may be described by the formula,

$$E_v = V_{tgt} - \text{BEMF} \quad [\text{Equation 3}], \text{ wherein}$$

V_{tgt} represents target actuator voltage, and

BEMF represents the actual voltage across the actuator.

Claim 11 (previously presented): In a hard drive assembly having an actuator, the actuator having an actuator voltage, a method of controlling the actuator comprising the steps of:

sampling the actuator voltage;

sampling an actuator current;

calculating a BEMF using the sampled actuator voltage and sampled actuator current;

calculating a velocity error using the BEMF and a selected target voltage;

producing a digital voltage command for compensating the actuator voltage for the velocity error; and

applying a voltage at the actuator according to the digital voltage command, wherein the digital voltage command, V_{cmd} , may be described by the formula,

$$V_{cmd} = k_i * [x(n) + x(n-1)] + y_i(n-1) + k_p * x(n) + ffwd \quad \text{[Equation 4]},$$

wherein,

k_i is a constant representing the magnitude of integral compensation to apply,

$x(n)$ is a sample of the current value of the error term E_v ,

y_i represents the output of the integral portion of the compensation, and

$ffwd$ represents a feed forward voltage that allows the loop to run with a zero error within the dynamic range of the integrator.

Claim 12 (previously presented): In a hard drive assembly having an actuator, the actuator having an actuator voltage, a method of controlling the actuator according to claim 11 further comprising the steps of, subsequent to the applying step, waiting for a selected time interval and reiterating the foregoing steps.

Claim 13 (original): A velocity-controlled actuator apparatus in a hard drive assembly having an actuator motor, the velocity-controlled actuator apparatus comprising:

a sampler for sampling an actuator motor voltage and outputting a digital actuator motor voltage sample;

a timer for periodically activating the sampler; and

a digital processing engine for receiving a target actuator voltage command and the digital actuator motor voltage sample and for outputting a digital voltage command for controlling the actuator motor.

Claim 14 (original): A velocity-controlled actuator apparatus according to claim 13 wherein the timer is further adapted for putting the actuator motor in a high impedance state.

Claim 15 (original): A velocity-controlled actuator apparatus according to claim 13 further comprising a digital-to-analog converter for receiving the digital processing engine digital voltage command and outputting an analog voltage.

Claim 16 (original): A velocity-controlled actuator apparatus according to claim 13 further comprising an analog-to-digital converter operatively coupled to the actuator motor and sampler for sampling an analog actuator voltage and providing a digital signal to the sampler.

Claim 17 (original): A velocity-controlled actuator apparatus according to claim 13 wherein the digital processing engine further comprises a gain component for providing a pre-selected output gain.

Claim 18 (original): A velocity-controlled actuator apparatus according to claim 13 wherein the digital processing engine further comprises an integrator for calculating the digital voltage command.

Claim 19 (original): A velocity-controlled actuator apparatus according to claim 13 wherein the digital processing engine further comprises a digital processing engine shared by other functions in the hard drive assembly.

Claim 20 (original): A velocity-controlled actuator apparatus according to claim 13 wherein the digital processing engine further comprises machine readable instructions according to Table 1.

Claim 21 (original): A velocity-controlled actuator apparatus according to claim 13 wherein the digital processing engine further comprises machine readable instructions according to Table 2.

Claim 22 (original): A velocity-controlled actuator apparatus according to claim 13 wherein the digital processing engine further comprises machine readable instructions according to Table 3.